

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 12 February 2020

Subject: Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24 - Public Consultation Results

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For: Discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the final results of the public consultation in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020-2024 proposals.

Recommendation

2. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) is asked to note the contents of this report and the supporting appendices and approve the seven proposals in the 2020-2024 IRMP.

Executive Summary

3. The CFA has a legal duty in accordance with the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 to periodically review its fire and rescue service provisions to ensure that they are fit for purpose and appropriate to community needs. To comply with this requirement a formal project, which started in January 2019 has been delivered to undertake public consultation on seven IRMP proposals which were agreed by the CFA at its meeting in June 2019.
4. The 12 week period of public consultation on those proposals commenced on the 3 September 2019 and concluded on 25 November 2019. The outcomes of the consultation have been collated and analysed and are presented in two reports that are attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.
5. Appendix 1 is the Consultation Summary Report which has been created by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS). Appendix 2 is the Consultation Results Report which has been compiled by Leicestershire County Council who assisted LFRS in undertaking the consultation and analysing the results.
6. Non-survey based responses have also been included as Appendices to provide CFA members with all of the information which was submitted in

response to the consultation; Appendix 3 is the formal response from the Fire Brigades Union and Appendix 4 is Leicestershire County Council's response.

Background

7. An IRMP must assess all foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks to communities, and put in place arrangements to respond to and deal with them. It must cover at least a three-year time period, be regularly reviewed, reflect local risk, be developed through extensive consultation with multiple partners and be accessible and cost-effective. The planning process should also have regard for cross border, multi-agency risks and national incidents. The current IRMP is valid until 2020.
8. At its meeting in June 2019, the CFA approved the proposals for public consultation. These were:
 - Use our fire engines flexibly, aiming to attend life threatening incidents in an average of 10 minutes
 - Use our firefighters efficiently and flexibly to maximise our appliance availability
 - Purchase a second high reach appliance to replace the older one of the two vehicles
 - Continue to undertake our education and enforcement activities, targeting those most at risk
 - Continue to collaborate with other blue light services and our partner agencies to support our purpose of safer people, safer places
 - We want to enable our staff to do the right thing to help our communities
 - We want to implement alternative crewing arrangements in the event of the Service moving away from the current Day Crewing Plus duty system

Consultation Methodology

9. The consultation summary report presented as Appendix 1 includes the background to the consultation and the principles which were followed in undertaking it. It summarises the engagement activity completed and details of the consultation responses. It is estimated that over 70,000 individuals, businesses, schools, councils, community and minority groups, charities, disability and voluntary groups, staff members and interested members of the public have been engaged via a range of different communication methods.
10. Appendix 1 also includes a summary of the costs incurred in undertaking the consultation, details regarding the demographics of those who responded and a brief summary of the results for each proposal.
11. Appendix 2 includes a summary of the engagement activity, detailed analysis of the consultation results, analysis of the responders and a summary of the comments received in the questionnaire. Appendix 2 also includes details in relation to alternative proposals which were included by those who completed the questionnaire.

12. Although on-line responses were encouraged, there were 2 non-survey based responses received. These areas attached at Appendix 3 and 4.

Consultation Findings

13. To differing degrees of detail, the IRMP Consultation Summary Report and the IRMP Consultation Results Report both contain the results of the consultation. In total, 282 survey responses were received, nearly half of the survey respondents were members of the public, and over a third were serving firefighters or support staff.
14. For each of the seven proposals, the majority of respondents were in agreement:
 - Proposal 1 – 68.2% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 2 – 72.2% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 3 – 83.3% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 4 – 92.8% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 5 – 79.6% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 6 – 71.8% of respondents agreed
 - Proposal 7 – 53% of respondents agreed

Next Steps

15. Assuming the seven proposals are approved by the CFA, formal projects to deliver a replacement high reach appliance and improvements to the On-Call provision will be continued alongside a number of new initiatives to deliver the activities and benefits associated with each proposal.
16. Activities to achieve successful delivery of the IRMP proposals will be recorded on local District and Department Plans, with regular progress updates being presented to the Corporate Governance Committee at its quarterly meetings. All of the proposals will be successfully delivered by the end of the 2024.

Report Implications/Impact

17. Legal (including crime and disorder)

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 gives statutory effect to the requirement contained in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 to have an IRMP and the Framework directs the contents of the plan. The IRMP process also assists the CFA in meeting its statutory general Duty of Best Value contained in the Local Government Act 1999 which requires it to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In delivering the IRMP consultation, the CFA has complied with reasonable, proportionate and lawful consultation requirements, in particular, to ensure that consultation is carried out when proposals are at a formative stage and include enough information to allow responders to consider the issues. Thereafter, the product of the consultation must be conscientiously considered by decision-makers.

18. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

Delivery of the IRMP 2020-2024 public consultation incurred costs of £8,328. In addition to these costs there was approximately 1200 hours of effort incurred by the Planning Team, Senior Management and staff in creating, managing and communicating the consultation.

19. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

Through compliance with 'best practice' as described by the 'Gunning' principles, the CFA has eliminated risk associated with the delivery of its public consultation and the IRMP.

20. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

The detail and full analysis of participation in the public consultation are contained in Appendix 1 that is attached to this report.

Decision-makers and the service in developing policies and plans are subject to the Public Sector Equality to exercise their functions having due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The public consultation Equality Impact Assessment was completed prior to the commencement of the consultation. No significant issues were highlighted which weren't addressed by the steps undertaken to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. Further Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for each of the proposals where appropriate, once the specific approach to implementation has been agreed internally.

21. Environmental

None identified.

22. Impact upon Our Plan Objectives

Undertaking effective consultation achieves the 'aim' of the Service's Governance Strategy of 'proving assurance'. It also delivers the 4 'outcomes' of well-informed communities, well-informed staff and knowing what staff and communities think. The 'objectives' of the Governance Strategy which states that 'we will engage with staff and all communities on major changes affecting our Service' and 'inform staff and communities about the key decisions that we make' have been successfully accomplished.

Background Papers

Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024 Proposals Document – June 2019
CFA. <https://leics-fire.gov.uk/your-fire-service/decision-making/cfa-meetings/>

Appendices

Appendix 1 - IRMP 2020-2024 Consultation Summary Report.

Appendix 2 - IRMP 2020-2024 Consultation Results Report.

Appendix 3 – Fire Brigades Union Response to LFRS IRMP 2020-2024.

Appendix 4 – Final Response of Leicestershire County Council to LFRS IRMP 2020-2024.

Officers to Contact

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